

PRAISE FOR *THE NAMELESS CITY*

"The artwork is breathtaking . . . lending each panel a richness that appropriately reflects a multifaceted culture."

—NEW YORK TIMES

"Astonishing . . . a staggering graphic novel which makes you feel everything its heroes are experiencing inside and out."

—BRYAN KONIETZKO, CO-CREATOR OF *AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER* & *THE LEGEND OF KORRA*

"Fun, exciting, and filled with remarkable characters . . . *The Nameless City* will leave you breathless!"

—JEFF SMITH, AUTHOR OF *THE BONE* SERIES

"Fantastic . . . Faith Erin Hicks is one of the best creators working in graphic novels today."

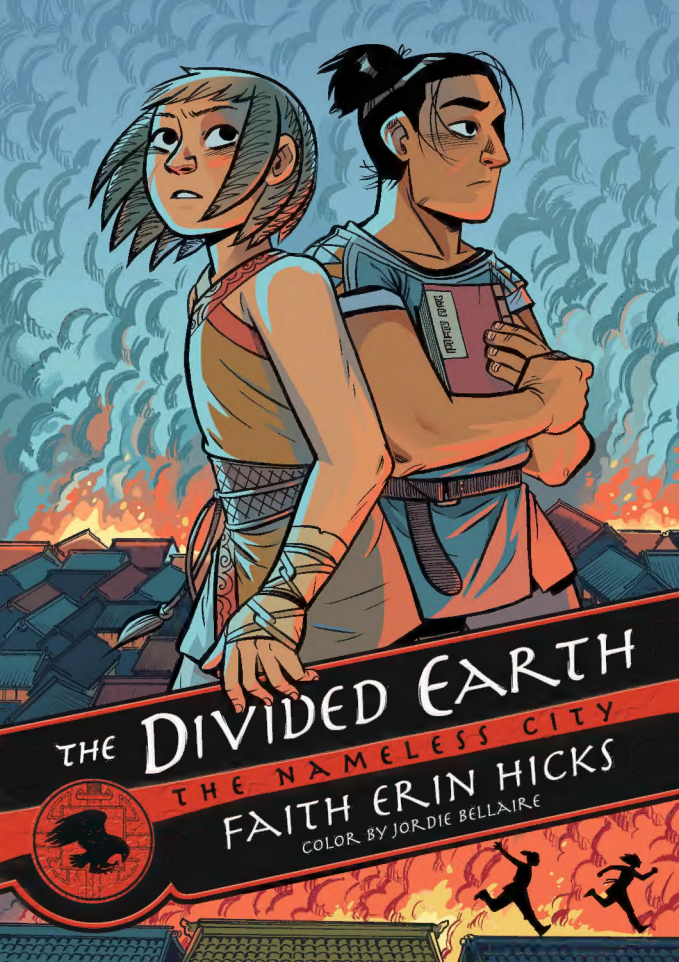
—KAZU KIBUISHI, AUTHOR OF *THE AMULET* SERIES

"Winning characters, a sumptuous setting, and sharp observations about power and history . . . this tale of unexpected alliances has everything."

—SCOTT WESTERFELD,
AUTHOR OF *THE UGLIES* AND *ZEROS* SERIES

READ THE WHOLE SERIES!





THE DIVIDED EARTH

THE NAMELESS CITY

FAITH ERIN HICKS

COLOR BY JORDIE BELLAIRE



THE DIVIDED EARTH





The leaders of
our people have
decided.

They said: our
Empire is fragmenting.
Our people split from
the whole and turn
against each other.



I begged our wise
leaders: do not rob
future generations
of this power.

It has given
us so much.



But they are afraid,
our wise leaders. Afraid
of what the future holds.

They are cowards. I will
not let the knowledge of
our sacred fire vanish
from the world!



I will preserve
our greatest tool,
our Nipathun.



I wrote my knowledge
in a book and gave it
to the monks of the
Stone Heart.





I know they will keep the book
safe, until its knowledge is
needed in the world again.



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THE NAMELESS CITY

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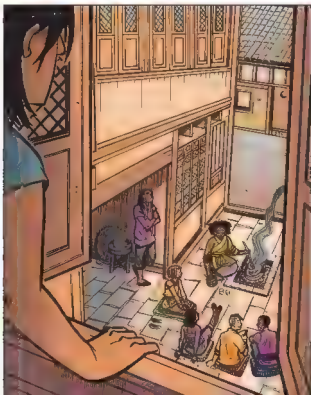
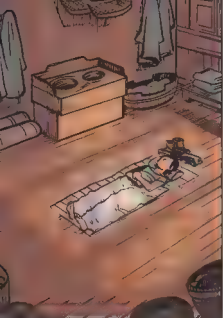


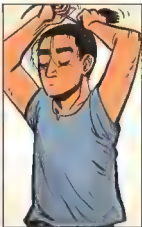
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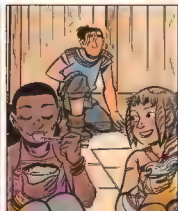
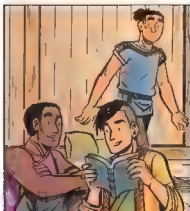
First Second
NEW YORK

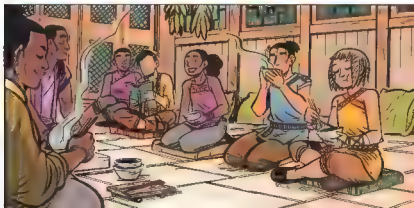
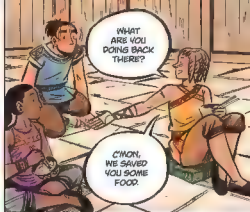
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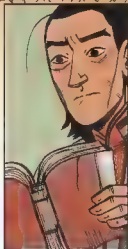
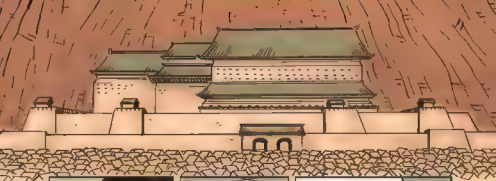


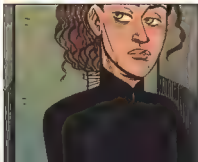
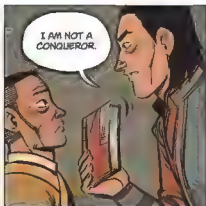


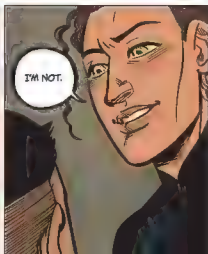


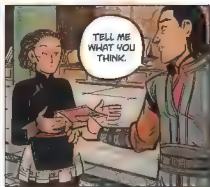
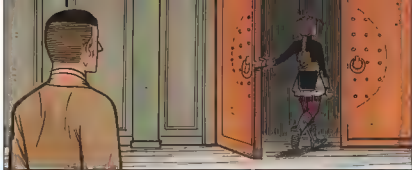






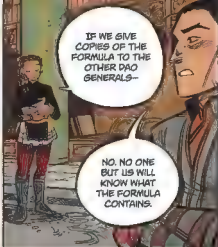








IT'S A
COMPLICATED
PROCESS, BUT
THE INGREDIENTS
CAN BE FOUND
IN THE CITY.

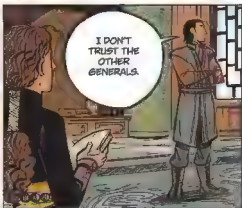


IF WE GIVE
COPIES OF THE
FORMULA TO THE
OTHER DAO
GENERALS—

NO. NO ONE
BUT US WILL
KNOW WHAT
THE FORMULA
CONTAINS.



...SIR?

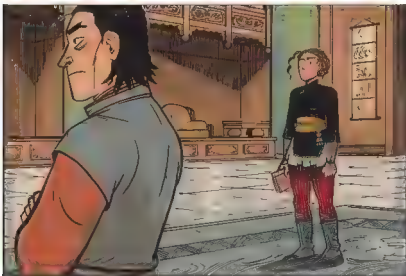
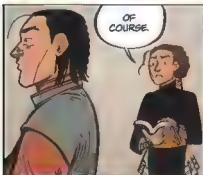


I DON'T
TRUST THE
OTHER
GENERALS.



THEY HAVE
ACCEPTED YOU
AS THE GENERAL
OF ALL BLADES.
YOU HAVE THEIR
LOYALTY.

IF THEY
HAD ACCESS TO
THIS WEAPON,
I MIGHT NOT
HAVE THEIR
LOYALTY MUCH
LONGER.







DAY 2





SORRY,
I JUST NEED
A MINUTE.

ALL RIGHT.
WE'VE MADE
GOOD TIME
TODAY.



PROBABLY
WOULD'VE MADE
BETTER TIME IF I'D
BEEN ABLE TO FIGHT
OFF THOSE SOLDIERS
WITHOUT GETTING
STABBED.



STILL, I
THINK I DID
PRETTY WELL
CONSIDERING I
HAVEN'T USED A
SWORD IN NEARLY
THIRTY YEARS.



MAY I ASK YOU
A PERSONAL
QUESTION?

OF
COURSE.



YOU DO
NOT SEEM
MUCH...
LIKE A DAO
GENERAL.





SINCE A DAO PRINCESS COULDN'T MARRY A LOWLY LIEUTENANT, WHICH WAS WHAT I WAS, I GOT A PROMOTION TO GO WITH MY NEW WIFE.



IT ALL HAPPENED OVER THE COURSE OF A WEEK.



I WENT FROM BEING AN ORDINARY SOLDIER TO A GENERAL, MARRIED TO THIS TALL, SMART, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...



IT WAS A VERY STRANGE WEEK.




SHE HAS A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR TOO.




THE SUDDEN PROMOTION WAS TERRIFYING. THERE I WAS, NO ONE OF CONSEQUENCE, RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH THE DAO MILITARY ELITE.

BUT I LEARNED HOW TO NAVIGATE THE WATERS OF POLITICS.




AND I WAS GOOD AT NEGOTIATING TRADE AGREEMENTS.



THE GENERAL OF ALL BLADES EVEN LISTENED TO MY IDEAS.



MAYBE HE SHOULDN'T HAVE.



I DON'T THINK
MANY DAO GENERALS
THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN AFTER
WE TOOK THE CITY
FROM THE YISUN.

WE'RE A
NATION OF WARRIORS.
BUT WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU STOP
FIGHTING?




WE HAD TO
LEARN TO
COMPROMISE, TO
NEGOTIATE WITH
OTHER NATIONS. TO
LISTEN TO PEOPLE
WE MIGHT NOT
HAVE VALUED
BEFORE.



THE CITY
CHANGED US.



THE CITY
CHANGES
EVERYONE.



SO, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME
WHO YOU REALLY ARE?



YOU LOOK YISUN,
BUT "JOAH," THAT'S
NOT A YISUN
NAME.



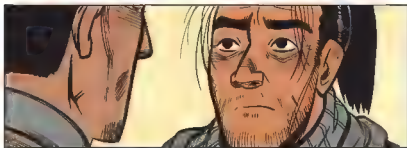
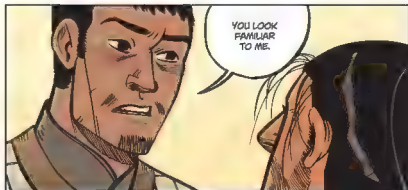


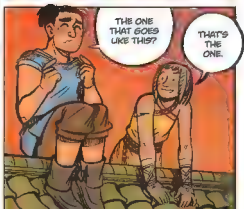
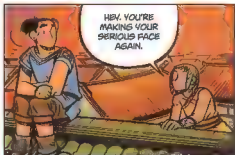
EXCUSE MY INTERRUPTION.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR
INFORMATION ON RECENT
EVENTS IN THE CITY
OF DANDAO.

DID YOU
COME FROM
THERE?

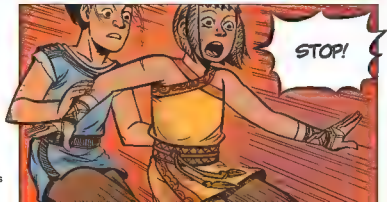
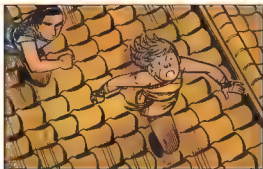
WE WERE
ONLY PASSING
THROUGH.

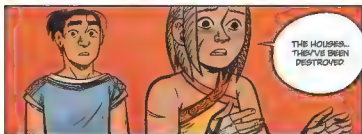
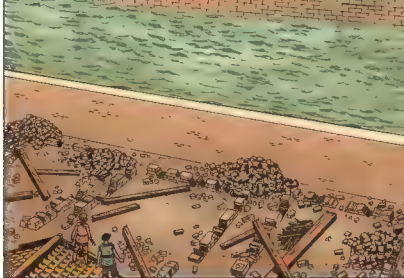












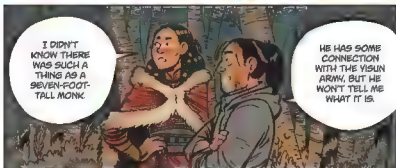












I NEEDED TO SPEAK WITH MY TRIBE'S TRADE ALLIES ON THE LAND ROUTE TO THE CITY, SO I USED THAT AS AN EXCUSE TO TRAVEL HERE.

I STARTED THE JOURNEY AROUND THE MOUNTAIN RANGE, TAKING A FEW OF MY BEST SOLDIERS.

WE HAD JUST GOTTEN PAST THE MOUNTAINS WHEN WE WERE TOLD THE GENERAL OF ALL BLADES WAS DEAD. I DECIDED TO CONTINUE TO THE CITY ANYWAY.

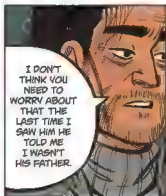
BUT ONCE I GOT HERE, THERE WASN'T ANYTHING I COULD DO. I SET UP CAMP AND WAITED TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.



AND HERE YOU ARE. WHERE IS KAIDU?

IN THE CITY. I TRIED TO MAKE HIM LEAVE WITH ME, BUT HE WOULDN'T.

OH YES, HE'S VERY STUBBORN. I ARGUED WITH HIM FOR MONTHS WHEN HE DECIDED HE WANTED TO GO TO THE CITY.





KATA,
I NEED YOUR
HELP. I NEED TO
REACH OUT TO
THE YISUN
ARMY.



THERE HAS
TO BE A WAY
TO PREVENT
THIS WAR.



I KNOW I
SHOULDN'T
ASK—

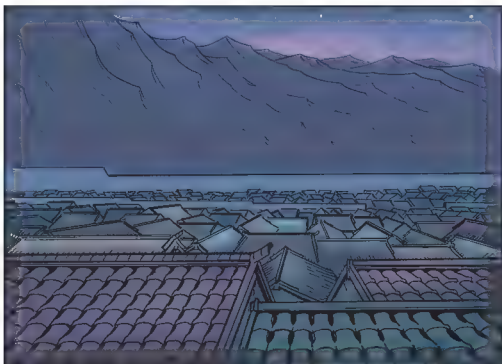
DON'T BE
FOOLISH, OF
COURSE I'LL HELP.

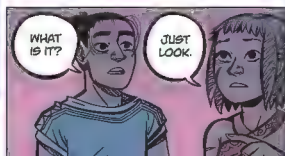
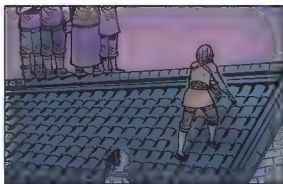


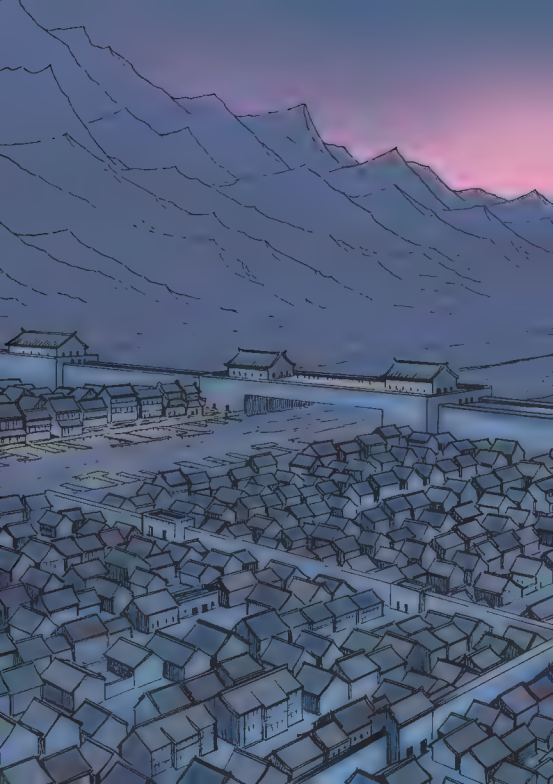
IF SAVING
THAT CITY IS THE
ONLY WAY I'LL SEE
MY SON AGAIN,
SO BE IT.

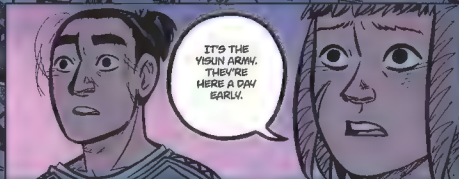
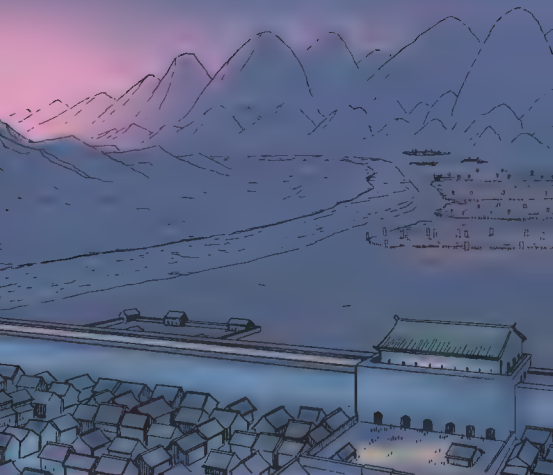


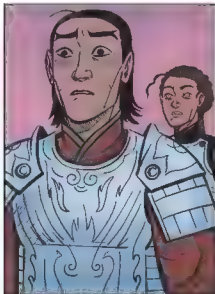
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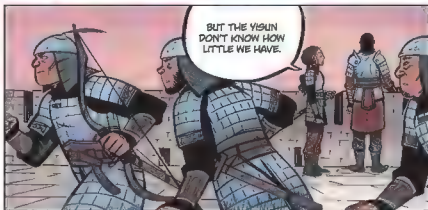


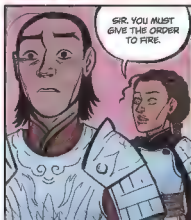
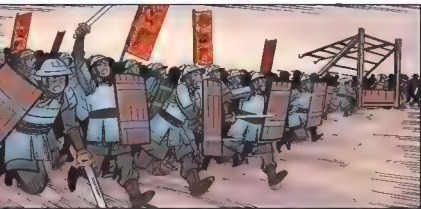
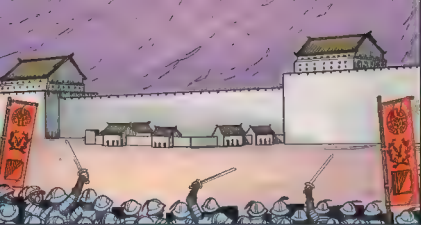








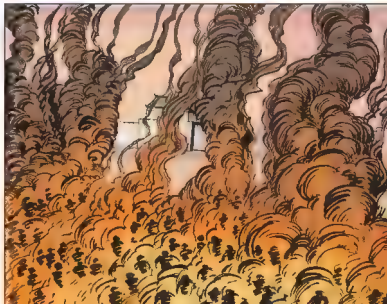


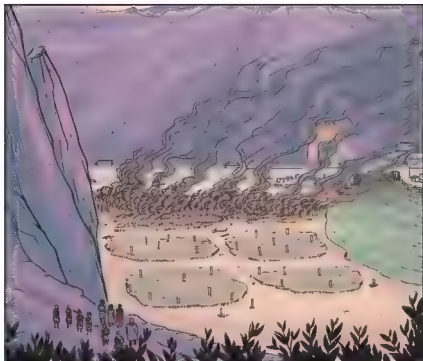


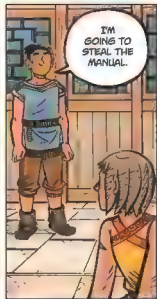
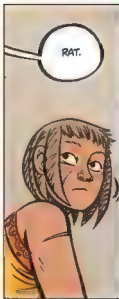
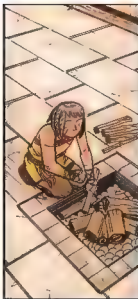
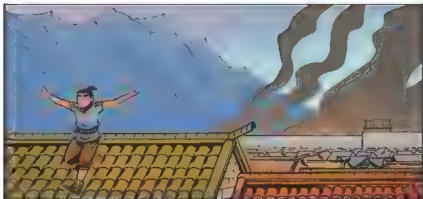
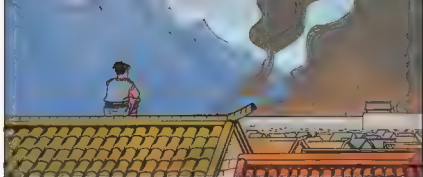


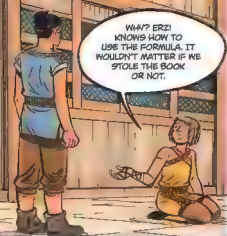
BOOM







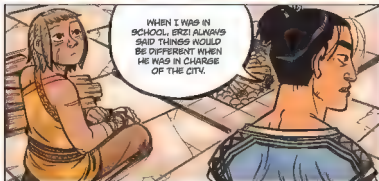




WHY? ERZI
KNOWS HOW TO
USE THE FORMULA. IT
WOULDN'T MATTER IF HE
STOLE THE BOOK
OR NOT.



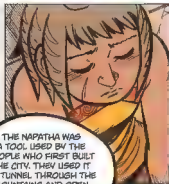
I DON'T WANT
ERZI TO HAVE
THE MANUAL.
IT DOESN'T
BELONG
TO HIM.



WHEN I WAS IN
SCHOOL, ERZI ALWAYS
SAID THINGS WOULD
BE DIFFERENT WHEN
HE WAS IN CHARGE
OF THE CITY.



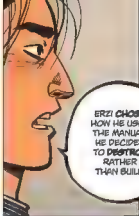
HE KEPT
SAVING THE CITY
WAS HIS HOME,
HE WAS BORN
HERE, ALL THESE
THINGS. IT
WAS SUPPOSED
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.



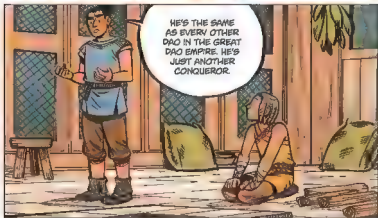
THE NAPATHA WAS
A TOOL USED BY THE
PEOPLE WHO FIRST BUILT
THE CITY. THEY USED IT
TO TUNNEL THROUGH THE
MOUNTAINS AND OPEN
TRADE ROUTES TO
THE WORLD.



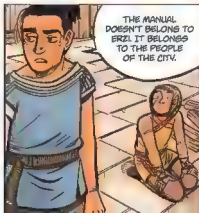
OR
THEY USED
IT FOR
WAR.



ERZI CHOOSE
HOW HE USED
THE MANUAL.
HE DECIDED
TO DESTROY
RATHER
THAN BUILD.



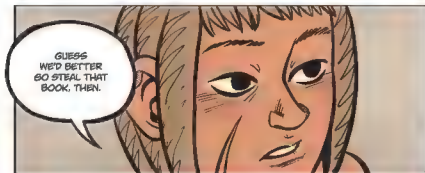
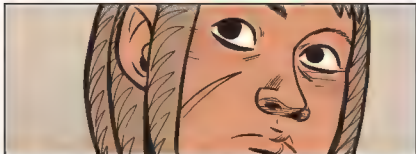
HE'S THE SAME
AS EVERY OTHER
DAO IN THE GREAT
DAO EMPIRE. HE'S
JUST ANOTHER
CONQUEROR.

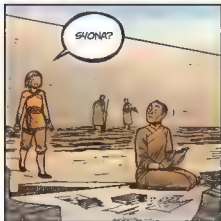
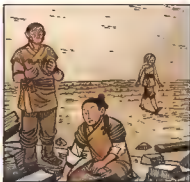
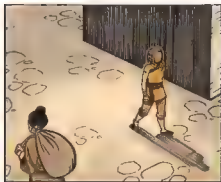
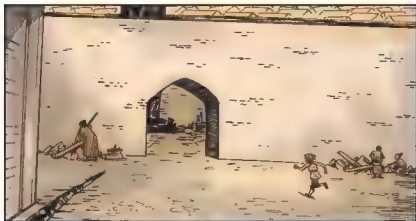


THE MANUAL
DOESN'T BELONG
TO ERZI. IT BELONGS
TO THE PEOPLE
OF THE CITY.



IT
BELONGS
TO YOU.







WHERE
ARE YOU
STAYING?

WITH
HANKKA'S
FAMILY

OH,
GOOD.



SHONA,
I NEED TO
TELL YOU
SOMETHING.



KAI AND I ARE
GOING TO BREAK
INTO THE DAO PALACE
TONIGHT. WE'RE GOING
TO STEAL THE MANUAL
OF DIVIDED EARTH
FROM ERZL.



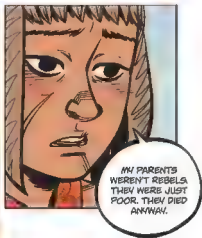
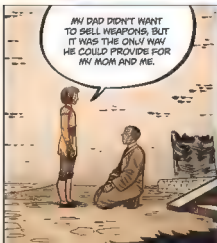
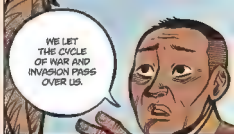
RAT,
NO.




I WANTED
TO TELL YOU,
IN CASE I
DIDN'T COME
BACK.



YOU CAN'T
DO THIS. LET
THE VISUN
AND THE
DAO HAVE
THEIR WAR.
STAY HERE
WITH ME.

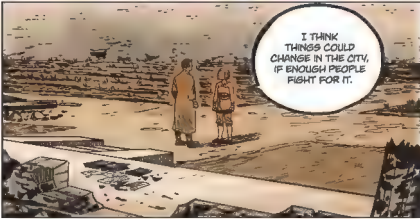




RAT,
THE SOLDIERS WHO
GUARD THE PALACE WILL
KILL YOU LIKE YOU'RE
NOTHING.



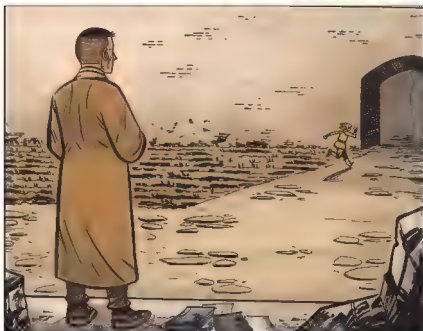
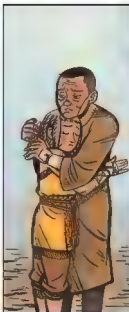
I KNOW
I'M NOTHING
TO THEM. I'VE
KNOWN ALL
MY LIFE.



I THINK
THINGS COULD
CHANGE IN THE CITY,
IF ENOUGH PEOPLE
FIGHT FOR IT.

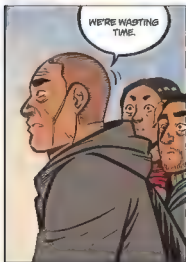


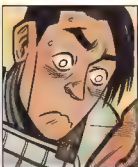
I'M GOING
TO FIGHT.



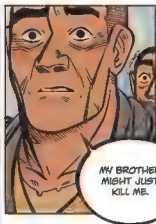
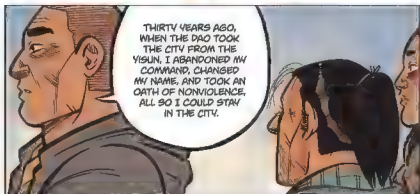


















WITH ALL DUE RESPECT,
SIR, IT WASN'T A TRICK.
IT WAS—IS—A PLAN
MANY IN THE DAO
EMPIRE SUPPORT.



THE GENERAL OF
ALL BLADES HIMSELF
SUPPORTED THE BUILDING
OF A COUNCIL OF NATIONS,
BEFORE...BEFORE
HIS DEATH.

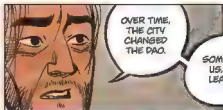


IT'S STRANGE TO
HEAR A WARRIOR WHO SO
RUTHLESSLY DROVE US FROM
THE CITY THIRTY YEARS AGO
WOULD NOW WANT TO
ALLY WITH US.



OVER TIME,
THE CITY
CHANGED
THE DAO.

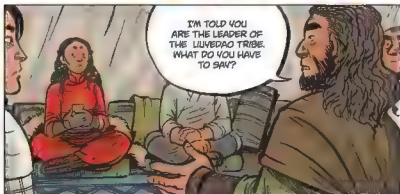
SOME OF
US, AT
LEAST.

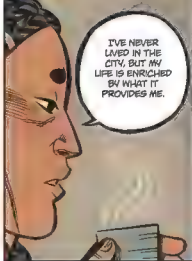


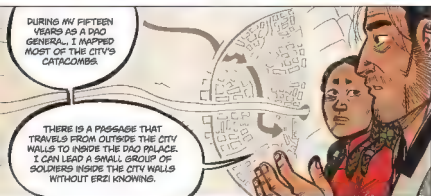
KUO, IS THIS MAN
TELLING THE
TRUTH?

YES. HE'S A
GOOD MAN,
EVEN IF HE IS
SOMETIMES
ANNOYING.











I HAVE
ONE CONDITION:
THE SOLDIERS
I LEAD MUST BE
BOTH DAO AND
YISUN.



WE MUST TAKE
BACK THE CITY
TOGETHER.



SO BE IT.
THE DAO AND
YISUN WILL FIGHT
FOR THE CITY
TOGETHER.

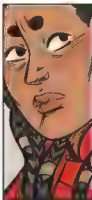


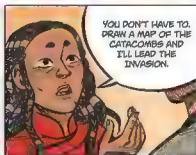
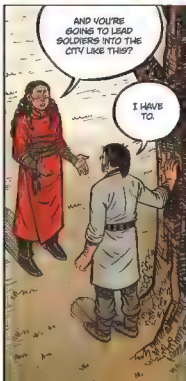
I VOLUNTEER
TO BE PART OF
THE INVADING
FORCE.

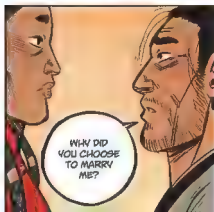
VERY WELL,
ANSHI.



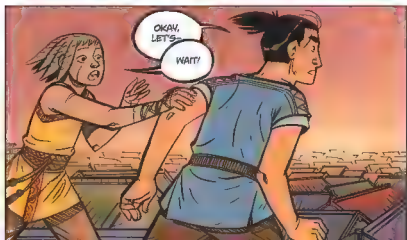
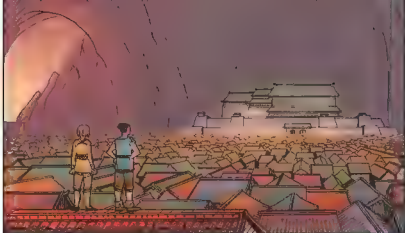
I WILL ASK
FOR MORE
VOLUNTEERS.

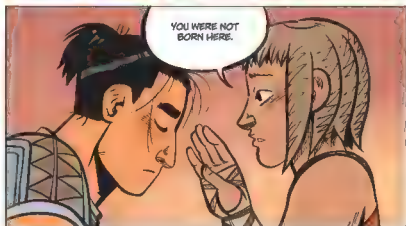
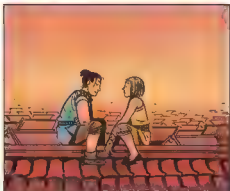
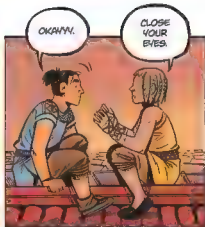


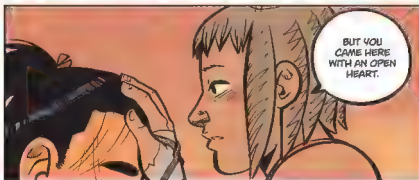
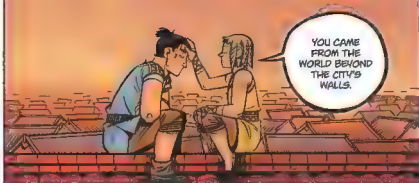


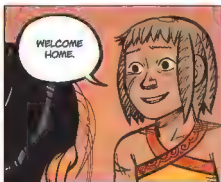
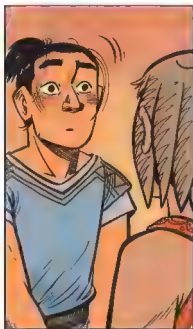
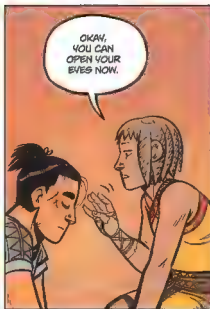
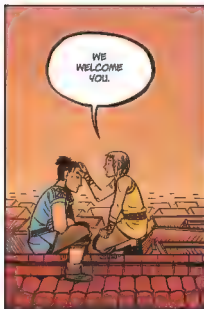


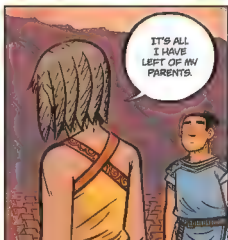
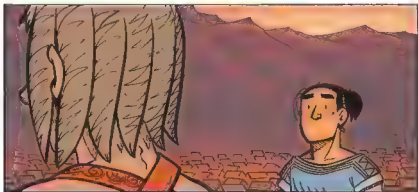
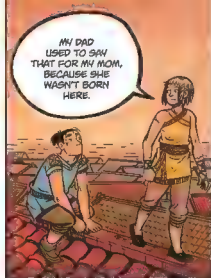


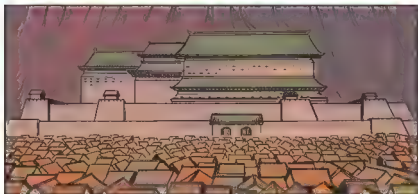
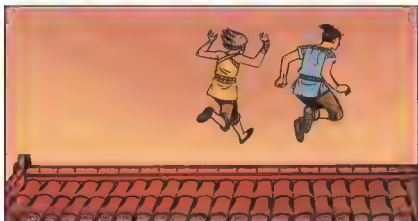


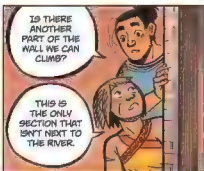
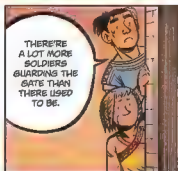


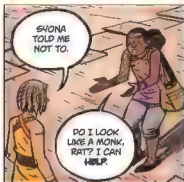
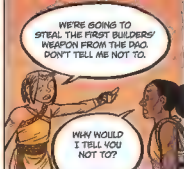








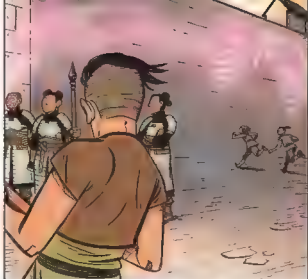






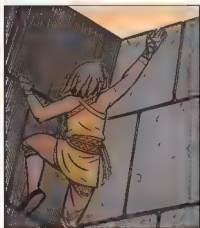
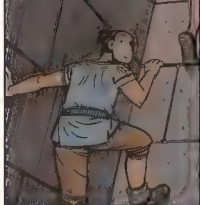


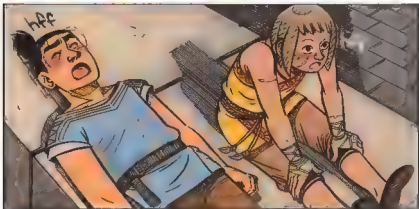
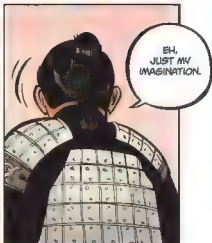
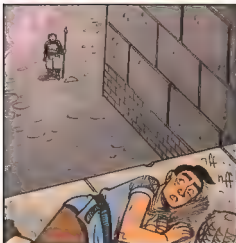
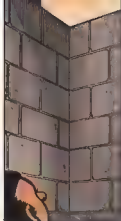
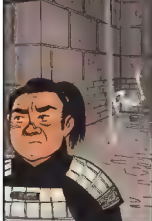


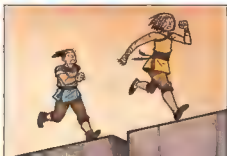
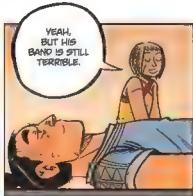


GOOD
LUCK,
GUYS.







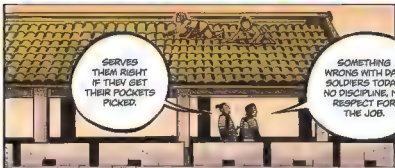




DID YOU
SEE WHAT
THOSE IDIOTS
AT THE GATE
ARE DOING?



THEY'RE
WATCHING
SOME KIDS
DO A LITTLE
DANCE.

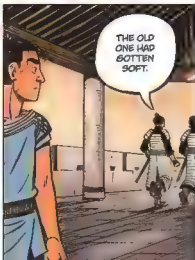


SERVES
THEM RIGHT
IF THEY GET
THEIR POCKETS
PICKED.

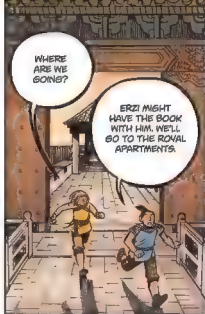
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH DAO
SOLDIERS TODAY
NO DISCIPLINE, NO
RESPECT FOR
THE JOB.

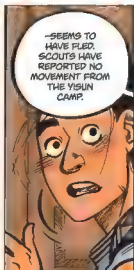
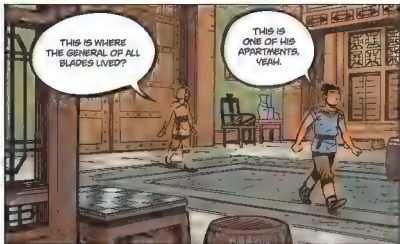
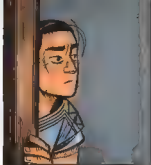
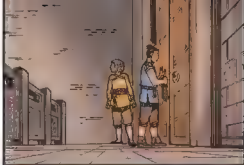


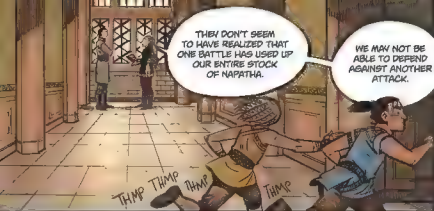
THINGS WILL
IMPROVE UNDER
OUR NEW GENERAL
OF ALL BLADES.



THE OLD
ONE HAD
GOTTEN
SOFT.







THEY DON'T SEEM
TO HAVE REALIZED THAT
ONE BATTLE HAS USED UP
OUR ENTIRE STOCK
OF NAPATHA.

WE MAY NOT BE
ABLE TO DEFEND
AGAINST ANOTHER
ATTACK.

THMP THMP THMP

THMP



IF YOU WOULD LET ME
SHARE THE FORMULA
WITH THE OTHER
GENERALS--

NO.
THAT WON'T
BE NECESSARY.



THE
VISUN ARE
DEFEATED.
THEY SAW
WHAT MY
WEAPON
CAN DO.



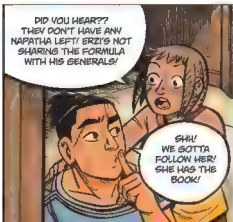
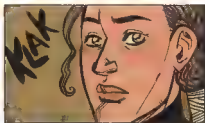
~~OR~~ WE SHOULDN'T
ASSUME THE
VISUN WILL STAY
DEFEATED.

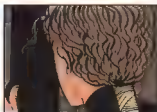
THEY WOULD
BE FOOLS TO
ATTACK THE
CITY AGAIN.

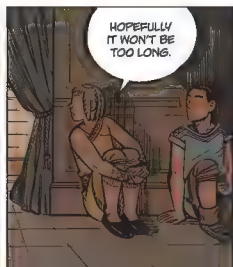
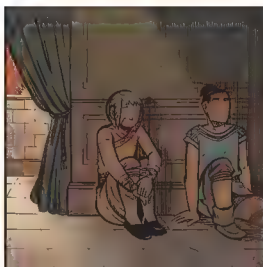
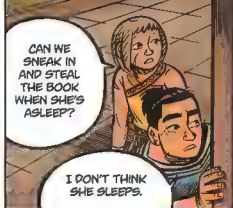


YES. THEY
WOULD BE.





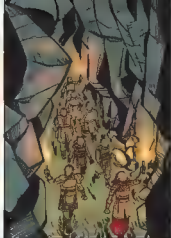


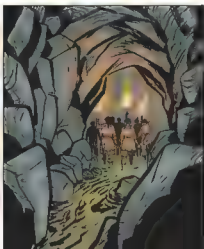




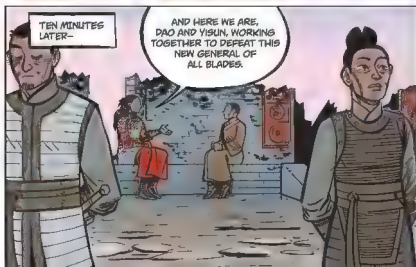


I HOPE THAT MAP
IS ACCURATE. IT'D BE
EASY TO GET LOST
DOWN HERE.











WE WERE
SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW
AN UNDERGROUND
PASSAGE INTO THE
PALACE, NOT COME
UP OUTSIDE ITS
WALLS. WE'LL BE AT
A DISADVANTAGE.



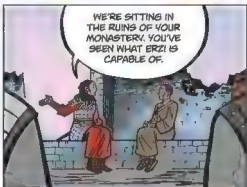
YOU MUST KNOW
MEN AND WOMEN IN
THE CITY WHO WANT
TO FIGHT ERZI. WE
NEED ALL THE HELP
WE CAN GET.



I'M SORRY. I
CANNOT ASK
THE PEOPLE
IN THE CITY
TO FIGHT.



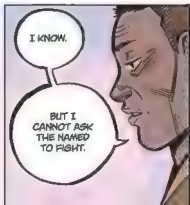
NOT EVEN
IF THE CITY'S
FUTURE
DEPENDS
ON IT?



WE'RE SITTING IN
THE RUINS OF YOUR
MONASTERY. YOU'VE
SEEN WHAT ERZI IS
CAPABLE OF.



HE COULD DESTROY
THE CITY WHILE YOU
STAND BY AND WATCH.

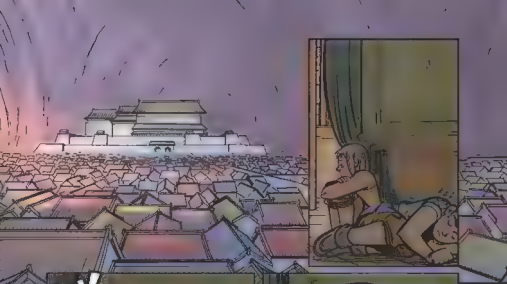


I KNOW.

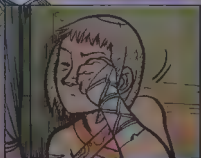
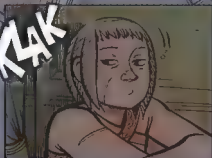
BUT I
CANNOT ASK
THE NAMED
TO FIGHT.

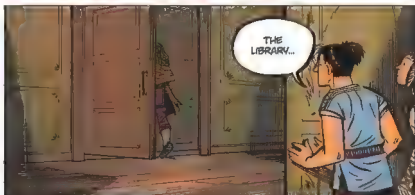


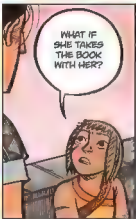
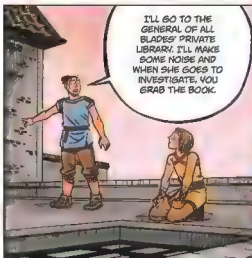
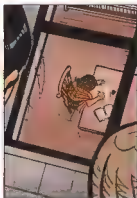
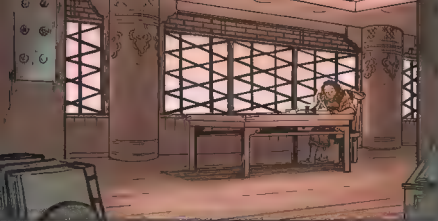


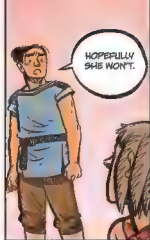


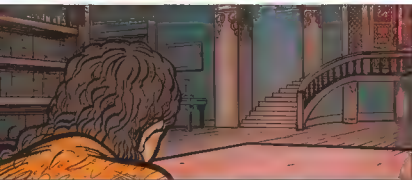
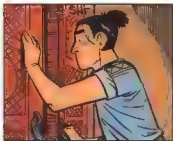
KAK

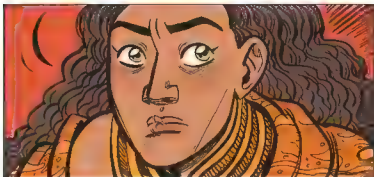


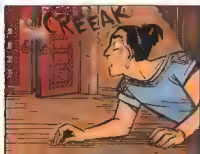
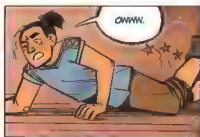
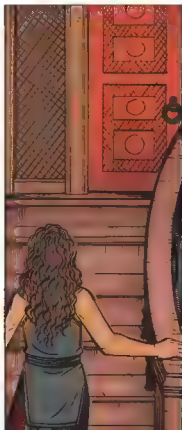


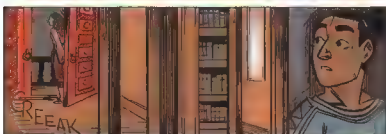
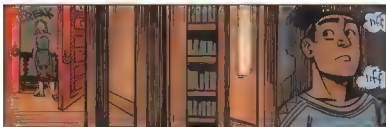


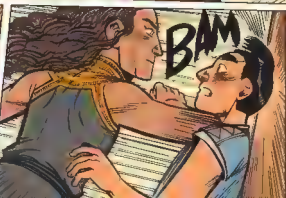
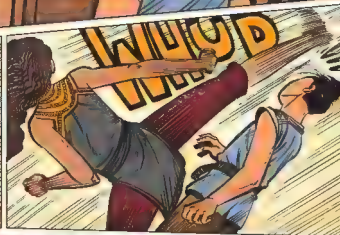


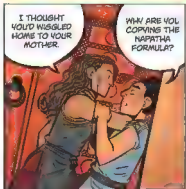








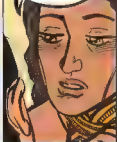




BUT...YOU'RE
ON ERZI'S SIDE. WHY
WOULD YOU GIVE THE
FORMULA TO HIS
ENEMIES?



THE MORE
PEOPLE WHO HAVE
THE NAPATHA, THE
BETTER THE WAR
WILL BE.



I'M HELPING
ERZI BECOME
THE MAN HE WAS
ALWAYS MEANT
TO BE.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

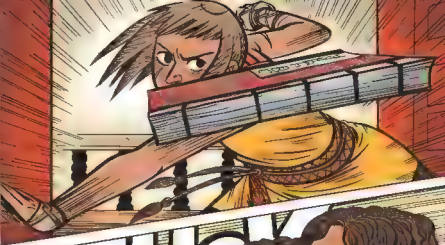


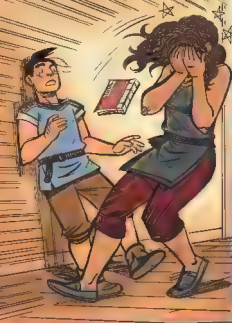
NO, YOU
DON'T. AND YOU
NEVER WILL

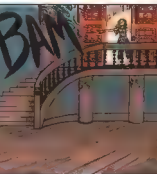
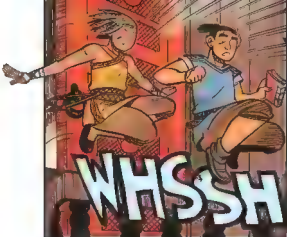


BAMM

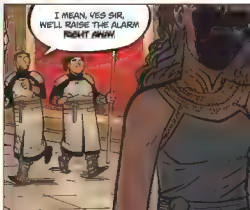


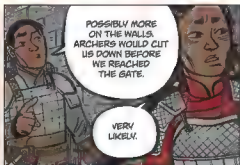
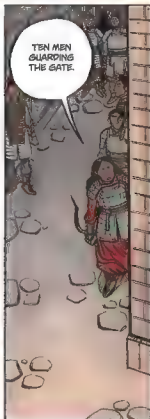


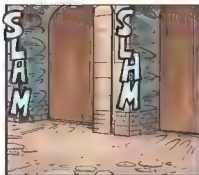




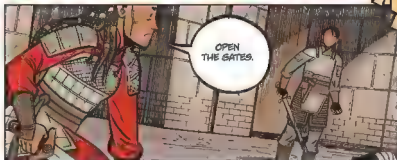
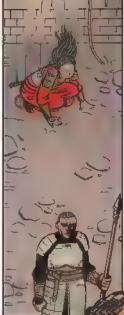
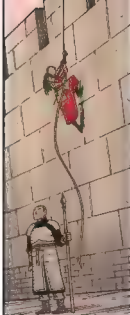


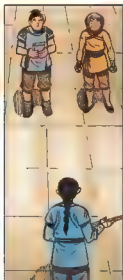
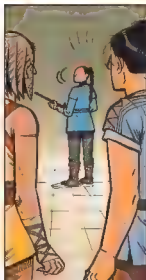




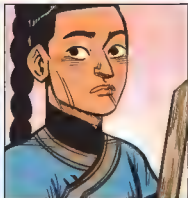
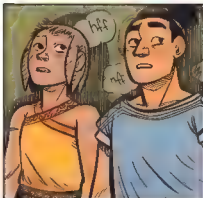
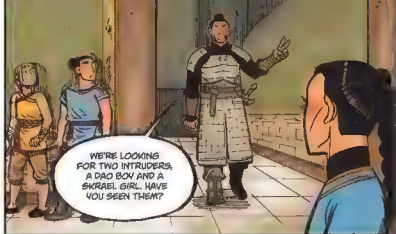


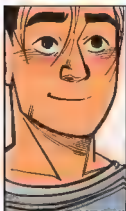
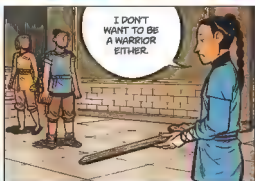


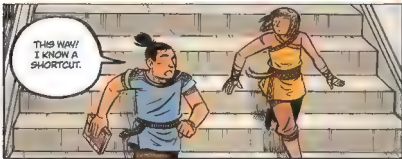
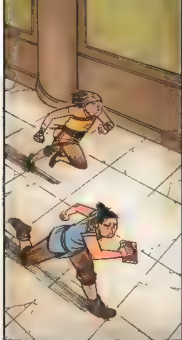


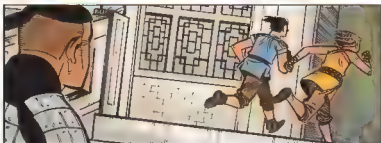
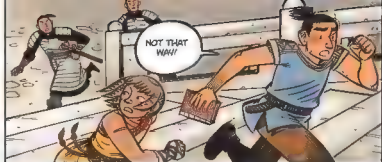


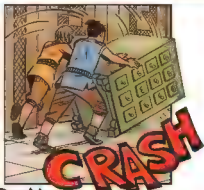
YOU
THERE!

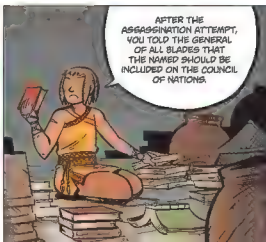






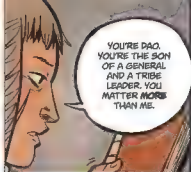








AND HE LISTENED TO YOU. HE WOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO ME.



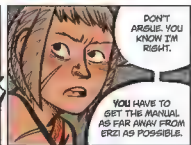
YOU'RE DAO. YOU'RE THE SON OF A GENERAL AND A TRIBE LEADER. YOU MATTER MORE THAN ME.



RAT, YOU MATTER—!



DON'T!

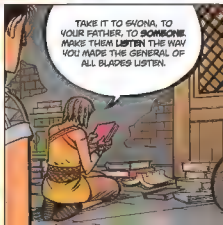


DON'T ARGUE. YOU KNOW I'M RIGHT.

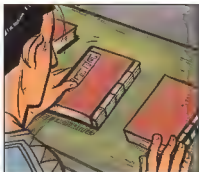
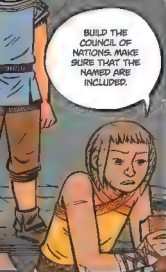
YOU HAVE TO GET THE MANUAL AS FAR AWAY FROM ERZI AS POSSIBLE.



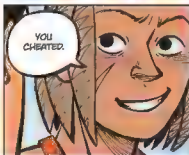
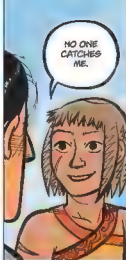
I'LL USE A DECOY MANUAL TO LEAD THE GUARDS AWAY, THEN YOU ESCAPE WITH THE REAL BOOK.

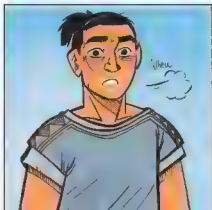
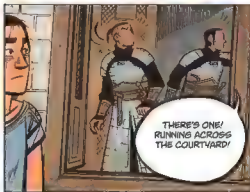


TAKE IT TO SYONA, TO YOUR FATHER, TO **SOMEONE**. MAKE THEM **LISTEN** THE WAY YOU MADE THE GENERAL OF ALL BLADES LISTEN.

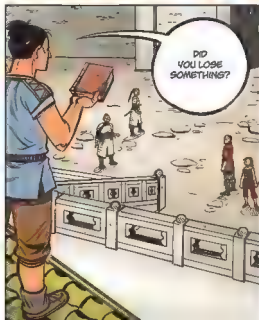
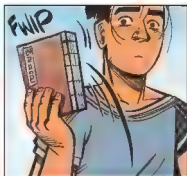


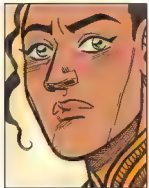
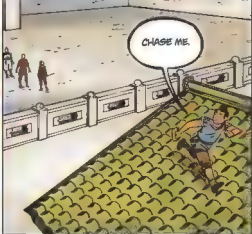
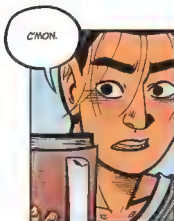


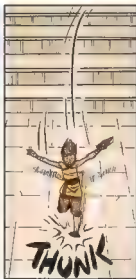
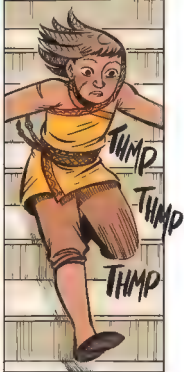
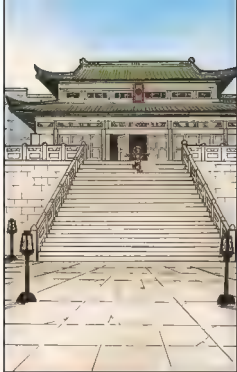




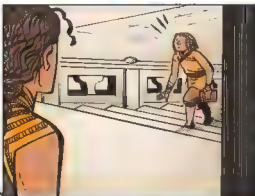




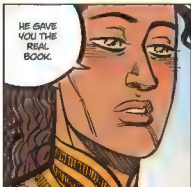


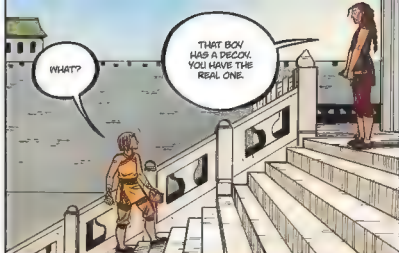


WHY AREN'T
THEY FOLLOWING
ME?



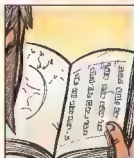
HE GAVE
YOU THE
REAL
BOOK.



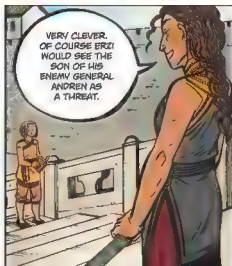


WHAT?

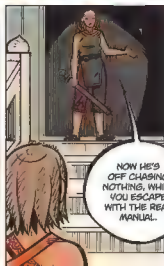
THAT BOY
HAS A DECOY.
YOU HAVE THE
REAL ONE.



KAI,
WHAT DID
YOU DO?

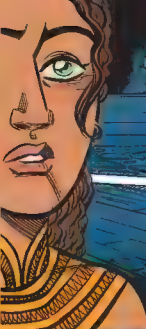


VERY CLEVER.
OF COURSE ERZI
WOULD SEE THE
SON OF HIS
ENEMY GENERAL
ANDREN AS
A THREAT.



NOW HE'S
OFF CHASING
NOTHING, WHILE
YOU ESCAPE
WITH THE REAL
MANUAL.





WHEN I WAS
A CHILD, MY MOTHER
ABANDONED ME ON
THE STEPS OF THE
STONE HEART. I DON'T
BLAME HER. SHE HAD
FIVE OTHER CHILDREN.
SHE COULDN'T FEED
ALL OF US.

THE MONKS
WERE KIND TO ME,
BUT I DIDN'T BELONG
WITH THEM. ALL I
WANTED WAS TO GO
HOME, TO BE WITH
MY FAMILY AGAIN.

I BETRAYED THE
MONKS' KINDNESS AND
TRIED TO STEAL THE
MANUAL FROM THEM. I
DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT
WAS. I THOUGHT IT WAS
SOMETHING I COULD
SELL FOR MONEY.

MONEY THAT
WOULD ALLOW
ME TO GO
HOME. TO BE
WITH MY FAMILY
AGAIN.



YOU PROBABLY
KNOW THE NEXT
PART: THE MONKS
CAUGHT ME,
THREW ME OUT.



I TOLD
MYSELF I DIDN'T
CARE. I'D GO HOME.
I'D FINALLY BE WITH
MY FAMILY AGAIN,
WHERE I
BELONGED.

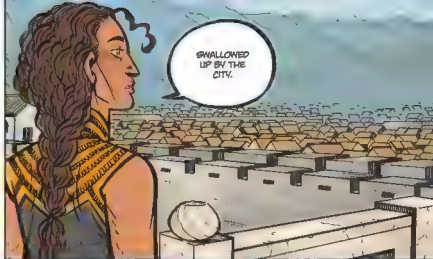


BUT MY FAMILY
WAS GONE, MOVED
ON SOMEWHERE,
LIKE SO MANY OTHER
PEOPLE WHO HAD
NOTHING.



I STILL
DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THEM.





SWALLOWED
UP BY THE
CITY.



AND THEN,
A YEAR
LATER, ERZI
FOUND ME.



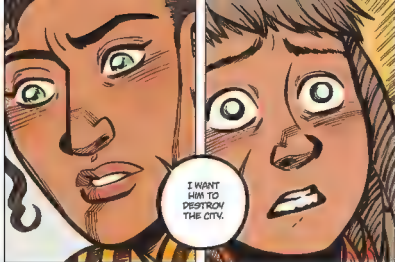
I KNOW-
I KNOW ERZI GAVE
YOU A HOME WHEN
NO ONE ELSE
WOULD, BUT LOOK
AT WHAT HE'S
DOING!

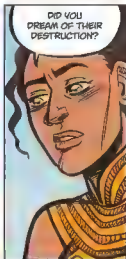


HE BURNED
DOWN THE
STONE HEART!
HE STARTED
A WAR!

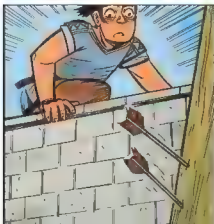
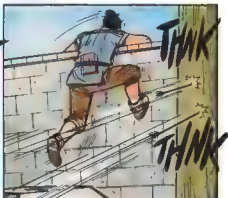


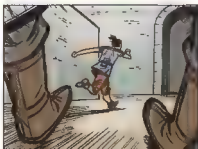
YOU HAVE
TO HELP US
STOP HIM! HE'S
DESTROYING
THE CITY!

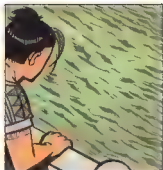


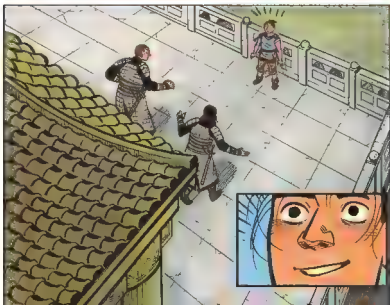


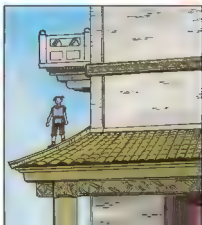
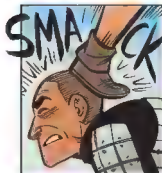


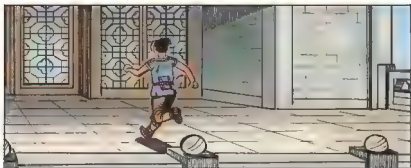
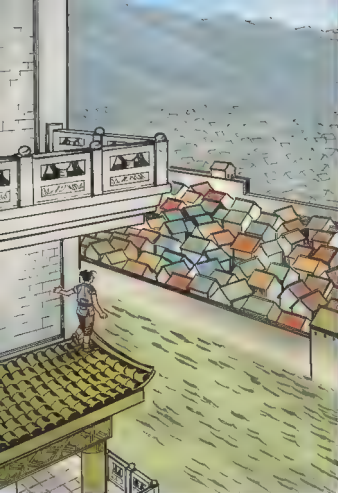


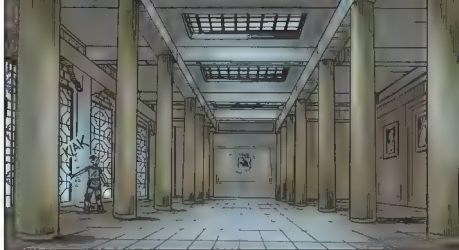


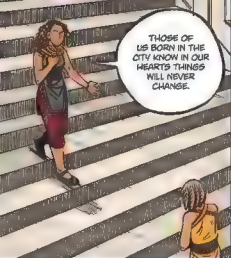












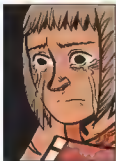
THOSE OF
US BORN IN THE
CITY KNOW IN OUR
HEARTS THINGS
WILL NEVER
CHANGE.



THE CITY
WILL ALWAYS
BE A PRIZE
FOUGHT OVER
ENDLESSLY.



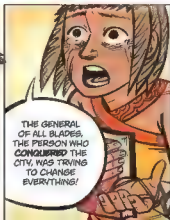
WAR AND
DESTRUCTION
IS THE CITY'S
ONLY FATE.



NO, I DON'T
BELIEVE YOU.



KAI WANTS
THINGS TO BE
DIFFERENT. HIS
FATHER TOO.



THE GENERAL
OF ALL BLADES,
THE PERSON WHO
CONQUERED THE
CITY, WAS TRYING
TO CHANGE
EVERYTHING!

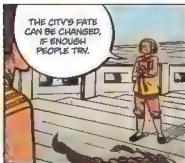
AND ERZI
KILLED HIM
FOR IT!



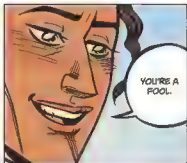
KAI GAVE
ME THIS BOOK.
THE GREATEST
POWER THE
WORLD HAS EVER
KNOWN. HE GAVE
IT TO ME.



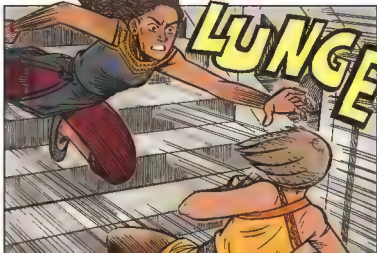
THE CITY'S FATE
CAN BE CHANGED,
IF ENOUGH
PEOPLE TRY.

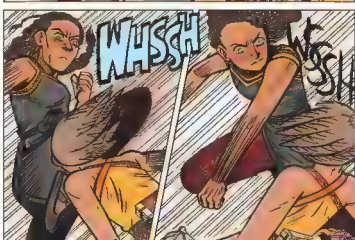


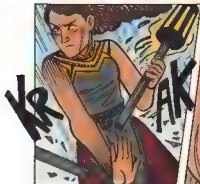
YOU'RE A
FOOL.

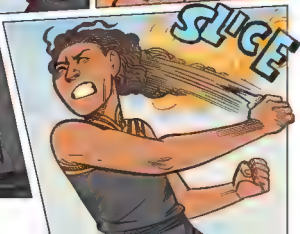
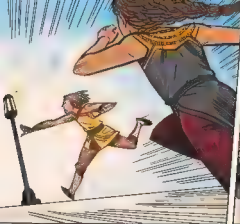


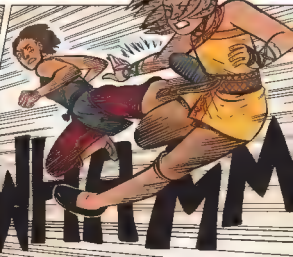
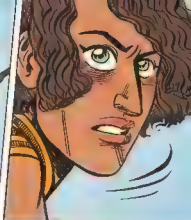
LUNGE

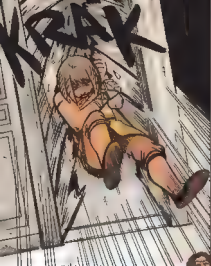


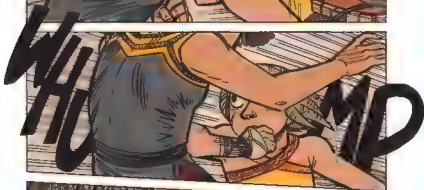
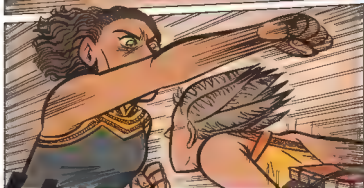


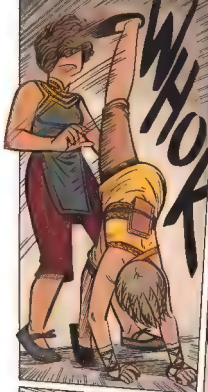


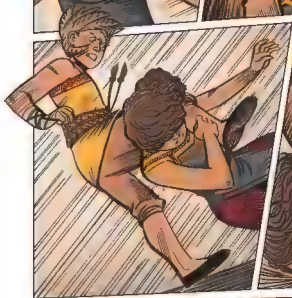
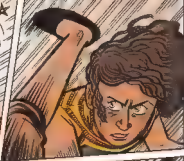


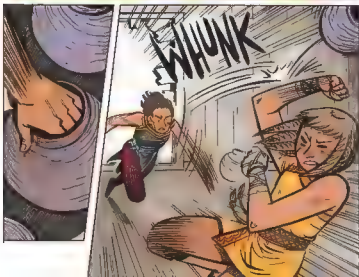


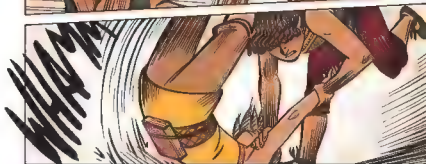


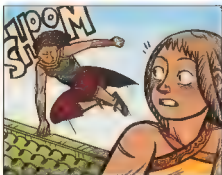
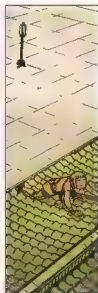




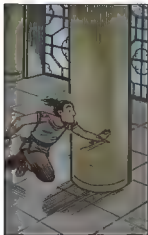
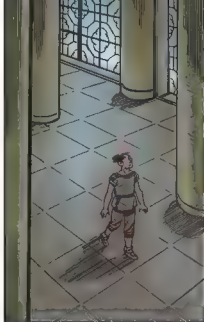


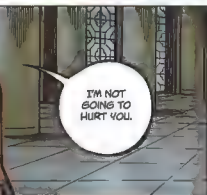
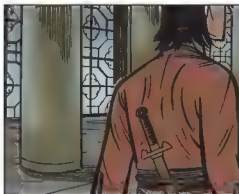
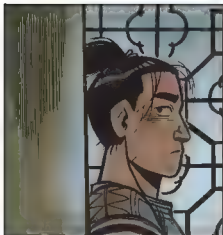


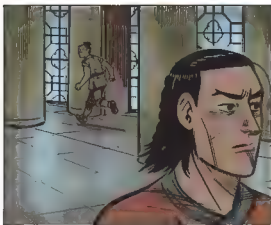








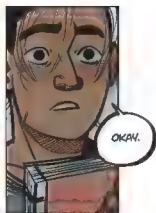
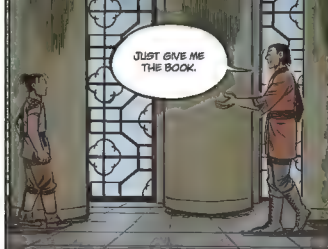




WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING TO
GO?



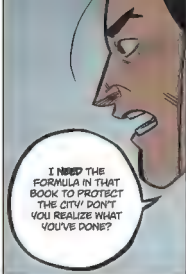
MY
SOLDIERS
ARE WAITING
OUTSIDE.
YOU WON'T
GET PAST
THEM.



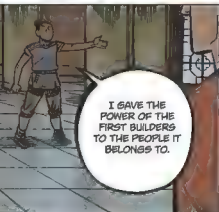


WHAT DID
YOU DO?!

I GAVE THE
BOOK TO RAT.
SHE'LL BE OUTSIDE
THE PALACE WALLS
BY NOW. SHE'S
VERY FAST.



I NEED THE
FORMULA IN THAT
BOOK TO PROTECT
THE CITY! DON'T
YOU REALIZE WHAT
YOU'VE DONE?



I GAVE THE
POWER OF THE
FIRST BUILDERS
TO THE PEOPLE IT
BELONGS TO.



THE CITY BELONGS
TO THE NAMED, NOT THE
DAO. WE CONQUERED
THE CITY BECAUSE WE
COULD, BECAUSE WE
WANTED IT!

WE NEVER THOUGHT
ABOUT ANY OF THE PEOPLE
WHO ACTUALLY LIVE HERE.

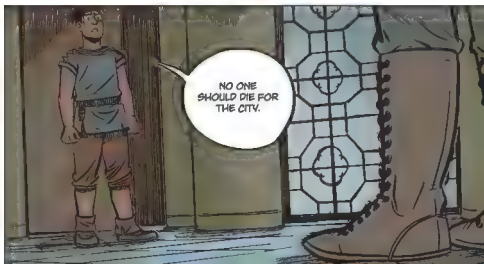
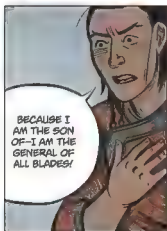


YOU DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING.



EVERYTHING
I'VE DONE HAS
BEEN FOR
THE CITY.

IT'S MY
RIGHT TO RULE
IT. I WAS BORN
HERE.





NOT RAT'S
PARENTS, NOT
YOUR FATHER.



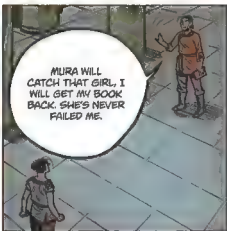
NOT YOU.



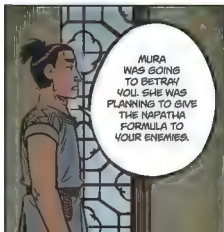
NOT ME.



THIS IS SUCH
NONSENSE.



MURA WILL
CATCH THAT GIRL, I
WILL GET MY BOOK
BACK. SHE'S NEVER
FAILED ME.



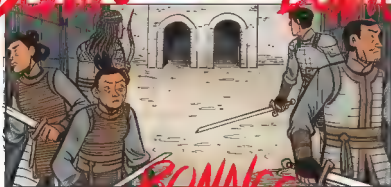
MURA
WAS GOING
TO BETRAY
YOU. SHE WAS
PLANNING TO GIVE
THE NAPATHA
FORMULA TO
YOUR ENEMIES.



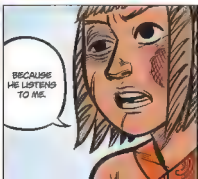
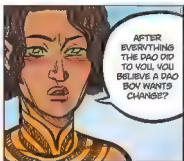
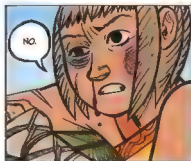
YOU'RE LYING!
MURA WOULD
NEVER BETRAY
ME! I SAVED
HER LIFE.

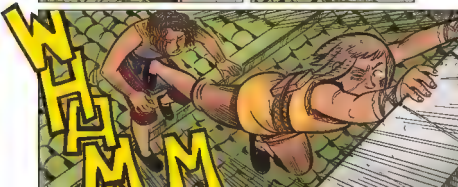
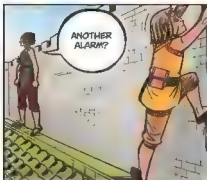


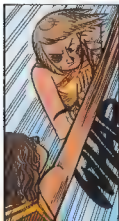


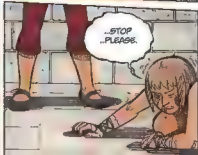
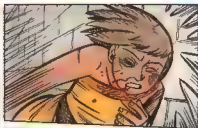
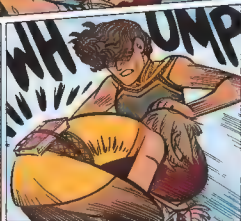


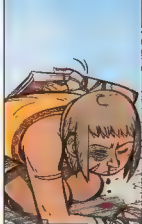
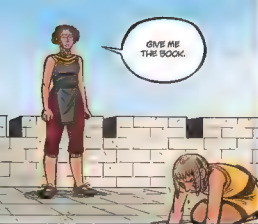
BONINGG

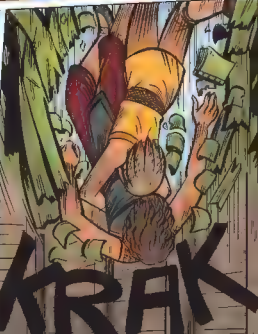


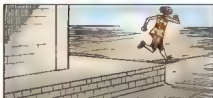
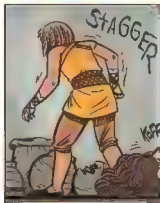


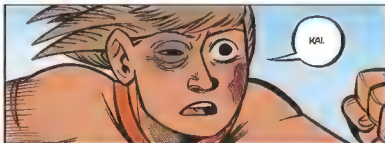
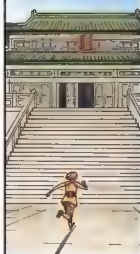














YOU'VE
BEEN IN THE
CITY FOR FOUR
MONTHS! I'VE
LIVED HERE MY
ENTIRE LIFE!



AND YOU THINK YOU CAN
TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME?





YOU
COULD'VE
CHANGED
THINGS!



YOU COULD'VE
LISTENED TO WHAT
THE PEOPLE IN THE
CITY WANTED!



INSTEAD,
YOU TOOK
WHAT YOU
WANTED,
WITHOUT
THINKING OF
ANYONE ELSE!

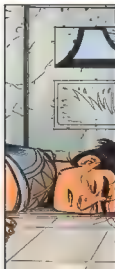
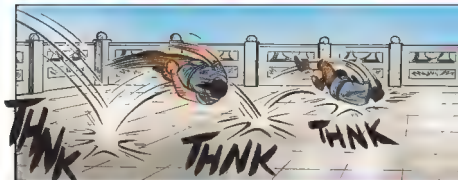
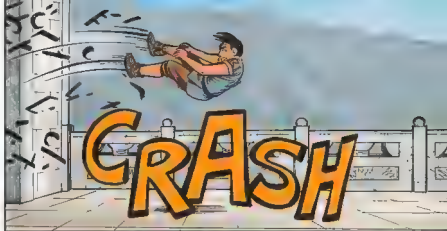


YOU'RE THE
SAME AS EVERY
CONQUEROR
THAT RULED THE
CITY BEFORE
YOU.

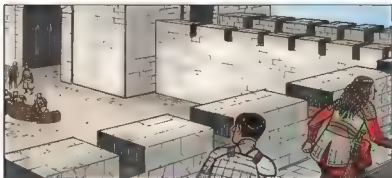


I AM NOT A
CONQUEROR!

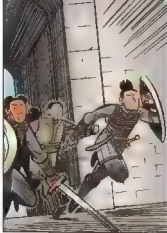


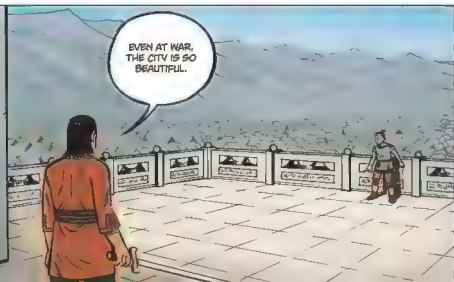


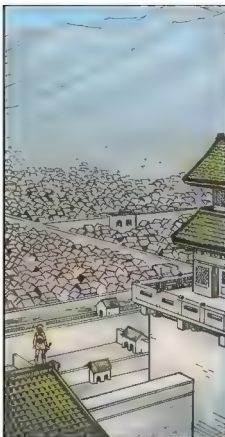




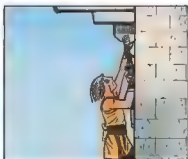


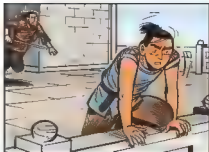


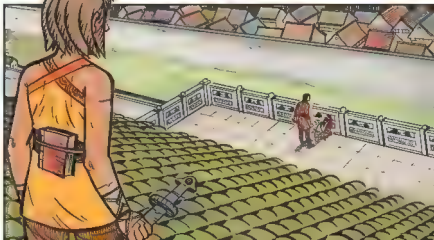
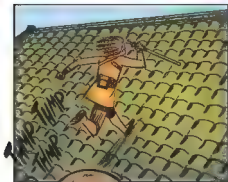
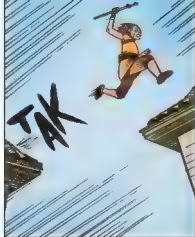




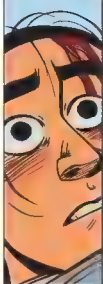
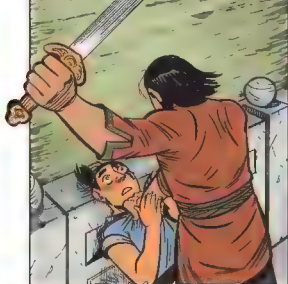
KAI,
WHERE
ARE YOU?

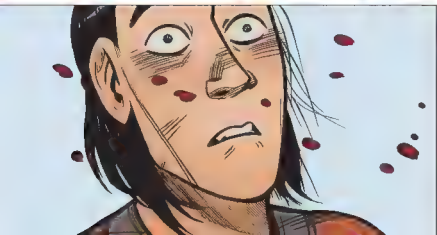
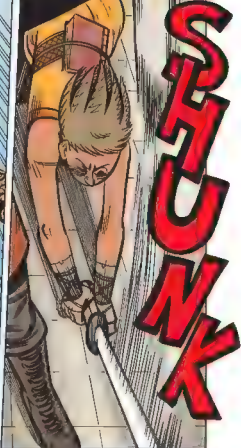








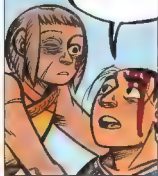




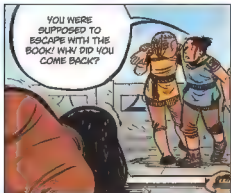
AHHGH!



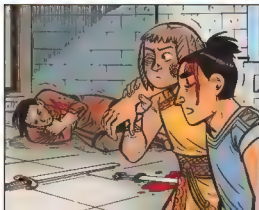
NO,
YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE...

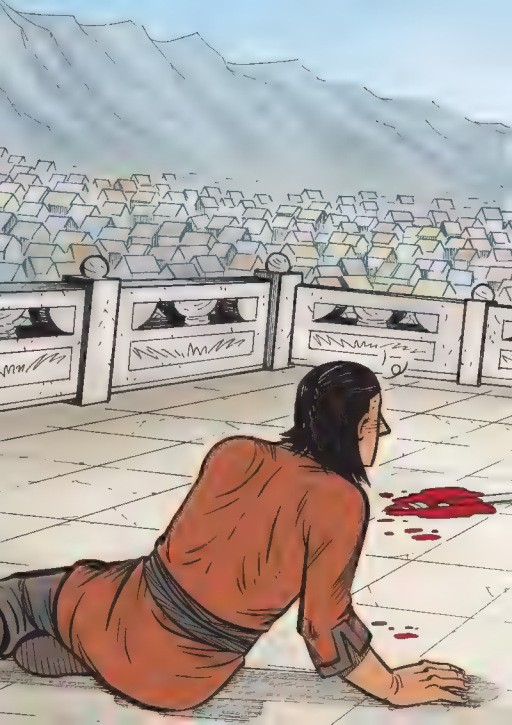


YOU WERE
SUPPOSED TO
ESCAPE WITH THE
BOOK! WHY DID YOU
COME BACK?

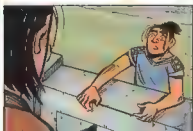
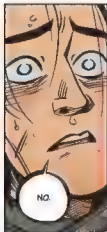


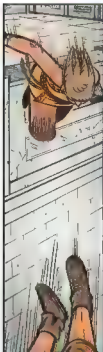
I CAME
BACK
FOR YOU.

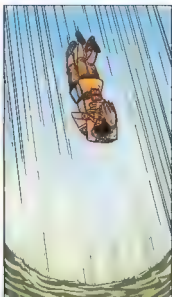
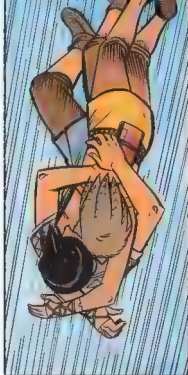


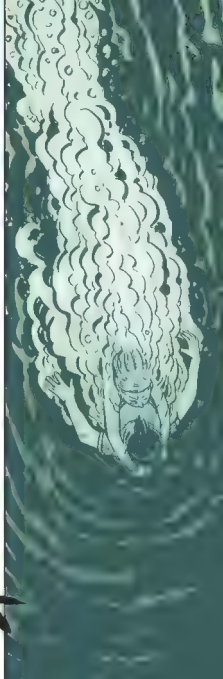


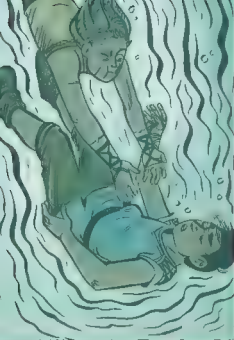


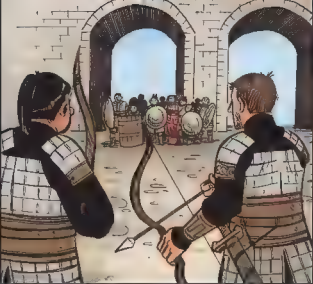




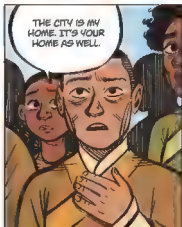
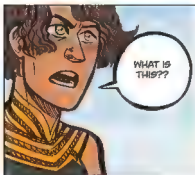














I RECOGNIZE
MANY OF YOUR
FACES. FOR
YEARS YOU HAVE
LIVED BESIDE ME,
SHARED THIS
PLACE WITH ME.



THE CITY HAS
BEEN A HOME TO
MANY DIFFERENT
PEOPLE, FOR
HUNDREDS
OF YEARS.



ANYONE WHO
COMES TO THE
CITY WITH AN
OPEN HEART CAN
CALL IT HOME.

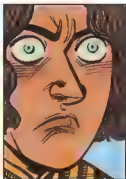
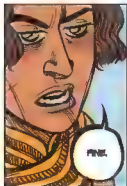


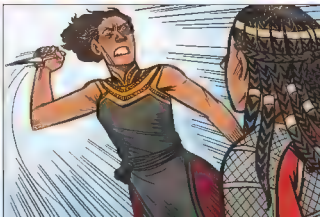
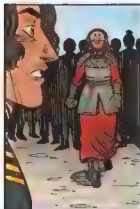
PLEASE,
STOP THE
CYCLE OF WAR
AND INVASION.
WE CAN ALL
LIVE HERE,
SIDE BY SIDE.




THERE IS ENOUGH
ROOM FOR ALL
OF US.









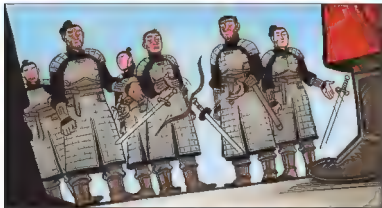


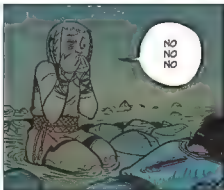
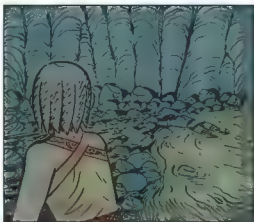
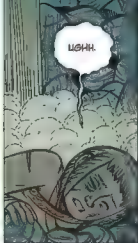
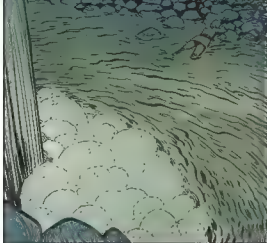
SOLDIERS OF
THE DAO EMPIRE, I AM
KATA OF THE LIKEDAO
TRIBE. I SPEAK FOR MY
PEOPLE AND FOR THE
DAO HOMELANDS.

WE MUST
END THIS
BLOODSHED.



SURRENDER
PEACEFULLY AND YOU
HAVE MY WORD YOU
WILL BE TREATED
FAIRLY.







WHY
DID YOU
COME
TO THE
CITY?

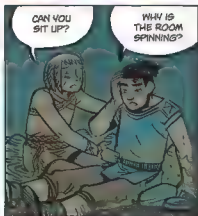


...BECAUSE...
I WANTED TO.



YOU'RE
ALIVE!

OH... PLEASE
STOP HUGGING
ME. EVERYTHING
HURTS.

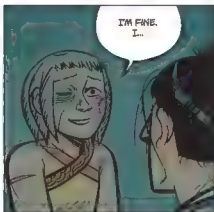


CAN YOU
SIT UP?

WHY IS
THE ROOM
SPINNING?



ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU LOOK...
NOT OKAY.



I'M FINE.
I...





RAT,
LOOK.



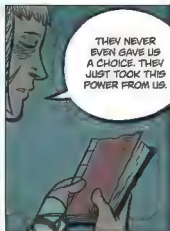
IT'S SOAKED,
BUT THE WRITING
STILL LOOKS
READABLE.



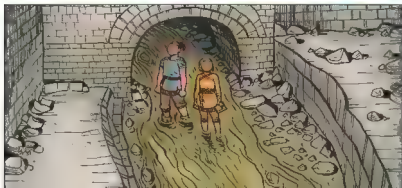
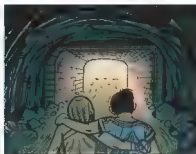
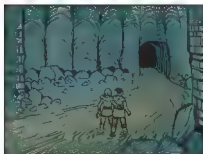
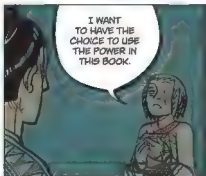
IT BELONGS
TO YOU. YOU
SHOULD DECIDE
WHAT TO DO
WITH IT.

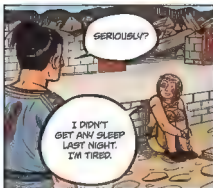


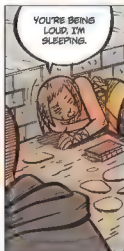
THE FIRST BUILDERS
TRIED TO BURY THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THIS
BOOK, BECAUSE
THEY WERE AFRAID
OF WHAT PEOPLE
MIGHT USE IT FOR.

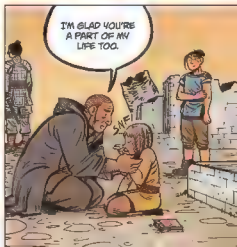
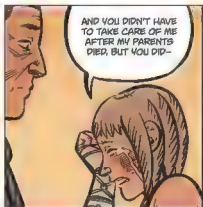
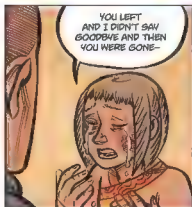
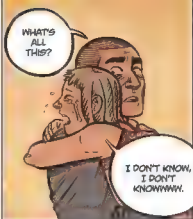
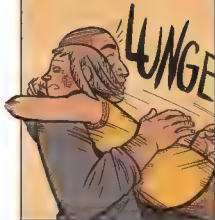


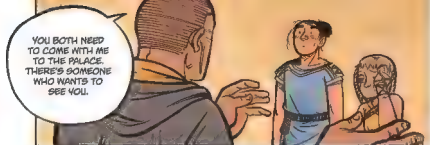
THEY NEVER
EVEN GAVE US
A CHOICE. THEY
JUST TOOK THIS
POWER FROM US.

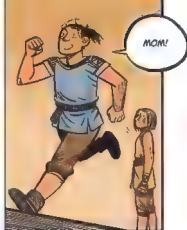


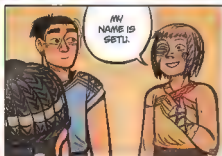
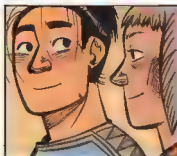


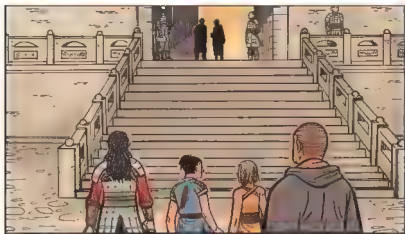
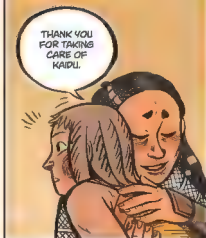






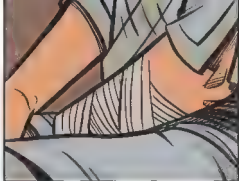






DAY 10







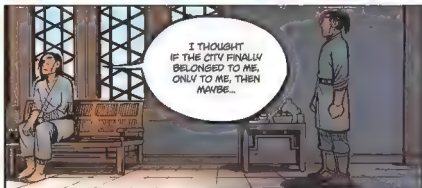
DO YOU HAVE
ANYTHING TO SAY?
ANYTHING AT ALL?



I'VE ALWAYS
FELT...FRAGMENTED.
NOT DAO, NOT QUITE
NAMED.



NO MATTER
HOW MUCH I
TRIED, I DIDN'T
FIT.



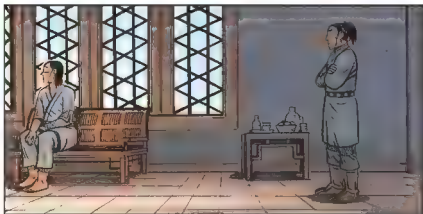
I THOUGHT
IF THE CITY FINALLY
BELONGED TO ME,
ONLY TO ME, THEN
MAYBE...



MAYBE I
WOULD BECOME
THE PERSON I WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE.



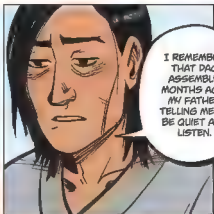
I'D FINALLY
BE WHOLE.



BUT NOW
MY FATHER IS
DEAD, AND I'VE
LOST THE CITY
FOREVER.

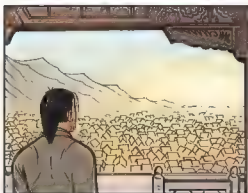


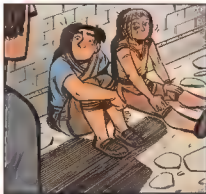
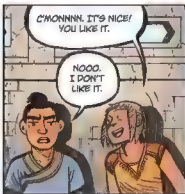
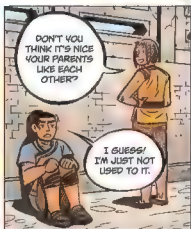
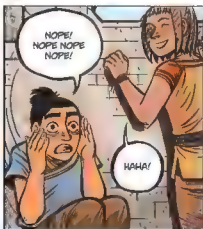
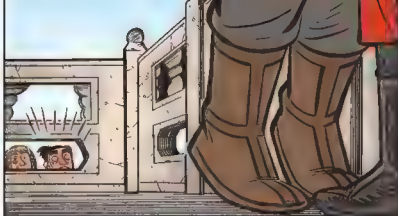
I REMEMBER
THAT DAO
ASSEMBLY,
MONTHS AGO.
MY FATHER
TELLING ME TO
BE QUIET AND
LISTEN.

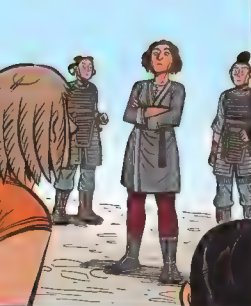


HE WAS
RIGHT. I
SHOULD'VE
LISTENED.

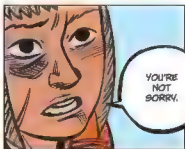








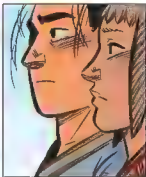
I'M
SORRY I
TRIED TO
KILL YOU.



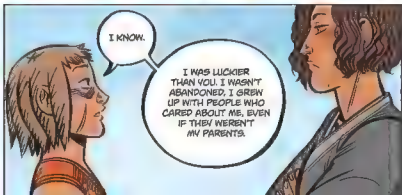
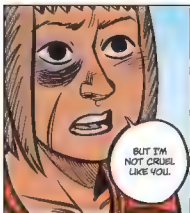
YOU'RE
NOT
SORRY.

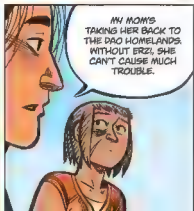


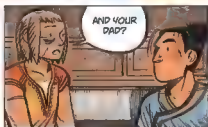
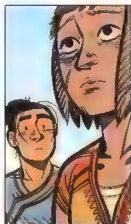
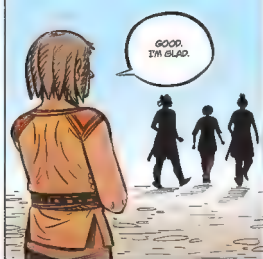
YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I'M NOT.

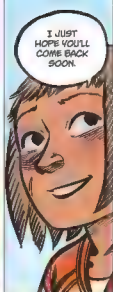


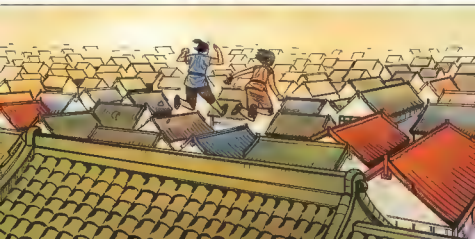
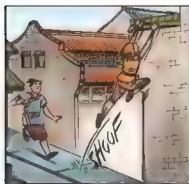
WE
ARE THE
SAME.







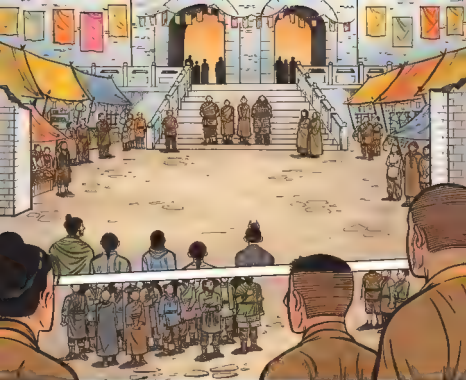




THREE YEARS LATER



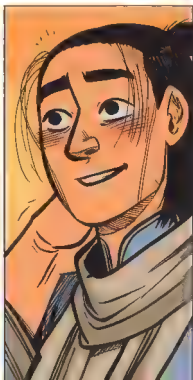




IT HAS BEEN A
LONG AND DIFFICULT ROAD,
BUT WITH YOUR RETURN,
THE COUNCIL OF NATIONS
IS COMPLETE.

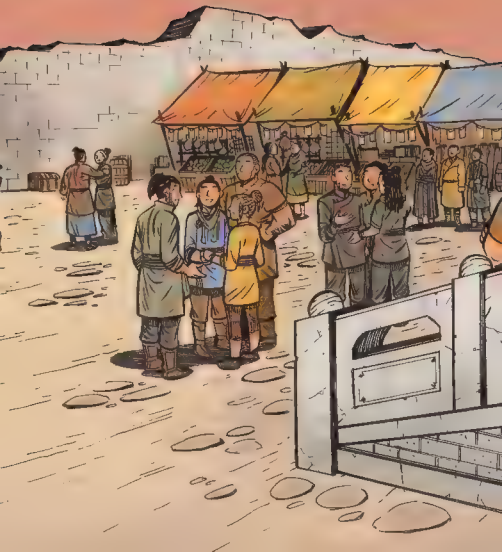
WELCOME
HOME.















Canada Council Conseil des arts
for the Arts du Canada

Faith Erin Hicks acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.

Faith Erin Hicks remercie le Conseil des arts du Canada de son soutien. L'an dernier, le Conseil a investi 153 millions de dollars pour mettre de l'art dans la vie des Canadiennes et des Canadiens de tout le pays.





THE DIVIDED EARTH

FAITH ERIN HICK

W.W.